GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5017
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
OUTSTANDING DUES AGAINST SUBSCRIBERS
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of subscribers who are to owe crores of rupees to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the amount recovered so far;

(d) the total amount written off during the last three years by DoT and MTNL and criteria adopted for this purpose;

(e) whether his ministry has taken some special steps to reduce the outstanding dues;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the extent to which the high power committees and liquidation boards have been helpful for early liquidation of outstanding dues?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Sir, there is only one individual subscriber in West Bengal Circle who has to pay over Rs. 1 crore to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

(b) Telephone No. Bill date Amount in Rs.

Ranaghat-58606	21.04.1998	40,46,280
	11.06.1998	25,63,108
Ranaghat-58611	21.04.1998	32,58,019
	11.06.1998	23,09,442
	Total:	1,21,76,849

(c) Nil as the case is being investigate by the CBI.

(d) The amounts written off during the last three years are as under:

Year	Amount written off (Rupees in thousands)	
	DOT/BSNL	MTNL
1998-1999	1874	967
1999-2000	24967	11216
2000-2001	4354	17890

Criteria adopted for write off of dues:

i) Very petty amounts outstanding where pursuit would be uneconomical.
ii) Whereabouts of subscribers not known or the subscribers are proved to be insolvent.
iii) Closure of subscriber firms or concerns.

(e) & (f): The following steps are being taken to reduce the outstanding dues:

i) Targets for liquidation of outstandings are set and performance monitored against them by BSNL/MTNL Head Quarters each year.
ii) Incentive to staff has been enhanced for early recovery of dues.
iii) High Power Committees and Liquidation Boards have been set up in the Circles of BSNL and MTNL to facilitate liquidation of dues.
iv) The collection efficiency of Circles is monitored each month.
v) The Circles of BSNL/MTNL are being regularly pursued to apply revised tariffs, issue bills promptly and do prompt disconnection for non-payment.

(g) Liquidation Boards and High Power Committees are helpful in reducing the outstanding dues as they are empowered to write off irrecoverable amounts.